

CLAIMS

1. A method for differentiating a mesenchymal stem cell, a mesenchymal progenitor cell, or a mesenchymal cell into a hepatocyte using liver tissue that has experienced chronic livery injury.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the liver tissue that has experienced chronic liver injury is developed in a mammalian liver by long-term administration of a hepatocyte-damaging agent to a mammal.
3. A method for differentiating a mesenchymal stem cell, a mesenchymal progenitor cell, or a mesenchymal cell into a hepatocyte, which comprises the following steps (1) to (3) of:
 - (1) administering a hepatocyte-damaging agent to a mammal;
 - (2) transplanting a mesenchymal cell, a mesenchymal progenitor cell, or a mesenchymal cell into the liver of the relevant mammal; and
 - (3) administering a hepatocyte-damaging agent continuously to the relevant mammal.
4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the mesenchymal stem cell, the mesenchymal progenitor cell, or the mesenchymal cell is a mesenchymal stem cell derived from a human.
5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the mesenchymal stem cell is a mesenchymal stem cell derived from a human.
6. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the mesenchymal stem cell is a mesenchymal stem cell in which hTERT (human telomerase catalytic activity subunit) has been introduced.
7. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 6, wherein the hepatocyte-damaging agent is allyl alcohol.
8. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 7, wherein an immunosuppressive agent is administered before transplantation of the mesenchymal stem cell, the

mesenchymal progenitor cell, or the mesenchymal cell.

9. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 8, wherein the mesenchymal cell, the mesenchymal progenitor cell, or the mesenchymal cell was intrahepatically injected.

10. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 9, wherein the mammal is a rat.

11. A method for discriminating with a label specific to a hepatocyte derived from a mesenchymal stem cell and harvesting such hepatocyte obtained as a result of differentiation caused by the method according to any one of claims 1 to 10.

12. A hepatocyte obtained as a result of differentiation caused by the method according to any one of claims 1 to 10.

13. A therapeutic agent for liver injury, which contains as an active ingredient a hepatocyte obtained by differentiation of a mesenchymal stem cell, a mesenchymal progenitor cell, or a mesenchymal cell.

14. A therapeutic agent for liver injury, which contains as an active ingredient a mesenchymal stem cell, a mesenchymal progenitor cell, or a mesenchymal cell.